

## Community resources

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*courage is contagious*

## Viewing cable 06BOGOTA4686, DRUMMOND COAL STRIKE

If you are new to these pages, please read an introduction on the [structure of a cable](#) as well as how to [discuss them](#) with others. See also the [FAQs](#)

### Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cable's unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this [WikiSource](#) article as reference.

### Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags **#cablegate** and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. **#06BOGOTA4686**.

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
06BOGOTA4686	2006-05-26 13:51	2011-08-30 01:44	CONFIDENTIAL	Embassy Bogota

Appears in these articles:

<http://www.elespectador.com/wikileaks>

VZCZCXYZ0015  
PP RUEHWEB

DE RUEHBO #4686/01 1461351  
ZNY CCCCC ZZH  
P 261351Z MAY 06  
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5283  
INFO RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS 7755  
RUEHLP/AMEMBASSY LA PAZ MAY LIMA 3804  
RUEHQT/AMEMBASSY QUITO 4443  
RUEHGL/AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL 3564  
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 1354

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 004686

SIPDIS

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/24/2016  
TAGS: [ETRD](#) [ELAB](#) [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [CO](#)  
SUBJECT: DRUMMOND COAL STRIKE

REF: BOGOTA 4537

Classified By: Milton K. Drucker. Reasons: 1.4 (b) & (d)

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SUMMARY  
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1. (C) On May 22, approximately 4,000 coal workers from Drummond, Inc. in Cesar Department began to strike (reftel), joining 300 workers already on strike in the Cesar Department.

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UNION EXPLAINS DEMANDS  
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2. (C) On May 22, Laboff met with XXXXXXXXXXXX of Energy Workers (FUNTRAENERGETICA), who explained the demands of striking workers at Drummond, Inc. FUNTRAENERGETICA is an energy sector trade federation that represents the interests of the coal workers in the Cesar Department.

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FEAR OF "STRIKE BREAKING"  
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3. (C) XXXXXXXXXXXX explained that Glencore was bringing in outside personnel under military escort to replace the striking workers, and expressed concern that this would lead to a breakdown in negotiations.

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DRUMMOND WILLING TO NEGOTIATE, BUT "WITHIN REASON"  
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4. (C) On May 23, the Deputy Chief of Mission met with XXXXXXXXXXXX of Drummond's Colombian operations, who called the union's demands "unreasonable" and stated that Drummond was willing to negotiate within reason.

5. (C) XXXXXXXXXXXX said SINTRAMINENERGETICA was capitalizing on the May 28 Presidential election, and explained Drummond would return to negotiations after the election.

6. (C) XXXXXXXXXXXX agreed with FUNTRAENERGETICA'S allegation that Glencore was using temporary personnel with military assistance, saying Glencore was using this tactic to break the strike.

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DRUMMOND FACING SEVERE FINANCIAL LOSSES  
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7. (C) Although XXXXXXXXXXXX said Drummond was not yet "deeply concerned" over the strike, the company, its contractors, and the national economy were all being affected by the strike.